TASMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

LGOIMA Response – Wai-iti River Flood Protection Scheme and Consultant Expenditure; Limited Comparative Analysis Identified

Reference 3689 | Response dated 31 July 2026

1. Purpose of this Note

This note records the formal response of Tasman District Council to LGOIMA request 3689 concerning consultant expenditure on river management, flood protection, drainage or coastal hazard planning, and any comparative analysis of major infrastructure upgrades versus managed retreat, property acquisition, or minimum intervention approaches. It is prepared as a public-interest transparency record.

2. Request Summary

The request sought (in summary):

- Total expenditure on external consultants, advisors, or contractors for river management, flood protection, drainage, or coastal hazard planning from 1 July 2020, broken down by financial year and major project or scheme where possible.
- Any reports, briefings, or analysis prepared since 2020 that compare or assess the costs and outcomes of major infrastructure upgrades (e.g. stopbank improvements, gravel management, channel works) versus managed retreat, property acquisition, or minimum intervention approaches in the Wai-iti catchment or other repeatedly flooded areas.

3. Key Formal Responses

3.1 Expenditure

Council released substantial figures for consultants and contractors under Rivers (Flood Protection and River Control Works):

- 2020/21: $3,484,693.86
- 2021/22: $6,667,673.31
- 2022/23: $8,077,714.31
- 2023/24: $4,623,643.69
- 2024/25: $4,576,570.16
- 2025/26 (draft): $10,582,432.16

Specific flood modelling and assessment projects were listed, including Upper Motueka, Takaka, Moutere, lower Waimea River stopbanks, Motueka nature-based solutions (MfE-funded), coastal management engagement, Brightwater-Wakefield CMP modelling, and Plan Change 85 (Natural Hazards).

3.2 Comparative analysis

On reports comparing major infrastructure upgrades versus managed retreat, property acquisition, or minimum intervention approaches in the Wai-iti catchment or other repeatedly flooded areas, Council stated:

“The work above listed under Motueka CMP includes a Motueka flood hazards options assessment by Tonkin + Taylor.”

No specific comparative assessment for the Wai-iti catchment, and no broader scheme-level comparison of infrastructure protection versus managed retreat or property acquisition pathways, was identified or released.

3.3 Charging advice

Council advised that, given the volume of recent requests, it will carefully consider charging to recover costs associated with further requests.

4. Significance

This response adds the following formal data points:

- Transparent release of multi-year consultant and contractor expenditure on river and flood protection work.
- Limited identification of comparative analysis: only a Motueka flood hazards options assessment is referenced; no clear scheme-level comparison of infrastructure upgrades versus managed retreat or property acquisition for Waiiti or other repeatedly flooded areas is provided.

5. Source Document

Tasman District Council LGOIMA response, reference 3689, dated 31 July 2026 (Legal Support Officer).

Public-interest transparency record prepared from primary LGOIMA response material. July 2026.